

HIGHER EDUCATION  
SUSTAINABILITY ACT OF 2005

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Higher Education Sustainability Act of 2005," which would authorize \$50 million for 25 Sustainability Education Programs across the country to develop and implement integrated environmental, economic, and social sustainability programs. Each Sustainability Program will focus on multidisciplinary research, education, and outreach at institutions of higher education.

Sustainable development practices are being advanced by hundreds of U.S. cities and companies and through a variety of international agencies including the United Nations and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. As population growth, urban development and extreme weather incidents place great stress on ecosystems around the globe, the need for developing innovative and successful sustainable development practices becomes critical to sustaining our economic competitiveness, improving our environmental health and creating more livable communities.

In my home State of Oregon, we have many great examples of sustainable development and livable communities. Portland State University, located in my hometown, provides an excellent example of how to incorporate sustainability throughout the curriculum. Faculty from the departments of social sciences, life sciences, physical sciences, humanities, as well as the professional schools have been working to incorporate sustainability principles in their coursework and research.

Portland State University's Sustainability Initiative has placed a high priority on Green Buildings on campus that use smart technology to improve operational performance and produce significant savings. The City of Portland awarded PSU's, Stephen Epler Residence Hall and Broadway Housing with the Businesses for an Environmentally Sustainable Tomorrow award for sustainable stormwater management. The Epler buildings harvests rainwater from the roof for use in restrooms and features low-flow water fixtures for showers and toilets resulting in cost savings of \$5,000 each year. The Broadway Housing features 20,000 square feet of an "ecorooft," one of the largest in a dense urban environment. Faculty and students designed a monitoring program to measure impacts of the ecorooft and preliminary studies show a 21 percent reduction in runoff. This is an exemplary example of how faculty uses the buildings as real laboratories.

These innovations are just a few among many that are already underway in colleges and universities across the nation. This legislation will ensure that we can extend these innovations to institutions of higher learning across the country. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill and make a commitment to making our educational communities more sustainable and livable.

TRIBUTE TO FAIRFAX DISTRICT  
WORLD WAR II B-25J PRODUCTION WORKERS

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, as the Library of Congress continues its efforts to memorialize American veterans through the Veterans History Project, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor 59,337 men and women in Kansas City who proudly served the home front and their Nation in a time of dire need.

In what is known as the "Fairfax District" in Kansas City, Kansas, North American Aviation of Kansas, a B-25J "Mitchell" bomber production plant, built 6,608 of the 9,817 bombers used during World War II. This number represents 67 percent, or 2 out of every 3 B-25J bombers built for the war effort. The women and men working in this factory sacrificed their sweat, blood, and tears to ensure that the United States remained strong and equipped during this fight.

As thousands and thousands of our citizens joined in the fight and left their jobs to serve in uniform, factories all across the country were facing a labor shortage, at the same time they were being called upon to produce vital equipment needed by our troops. In order to fulfill this need and do their part in the war effort, women joined the workforce and kept our factories busy producing machinery for the military effort, like the bombers produced at North American Aviation of Kansas. As some of the first women to join the industrial revolution, their hard work and dedication earned these women the nickname "Rosie the Riveter." Working hard right beside these "Riveters," men embraced their new colleagues as coworkers and equals, ripping down previous barriers of gender-based stereotypes in the work place.

As the United States continues to fight injustice around the world today, it is important to remember the courageous production workers who continue to give our military the equipment they need to stay safe and continue to prevail in the most dangerous of encounters. Mr. Speaker, I thank the "Bomber Builders" of the North American Aviation-Kansas aeronautical production plant who began today's tradition of continued sacrifice by offering their dedication, pride, and unwavering support for their nation during World War II when our Nation and the cause of freedom needed them the most.

**TAIWAN**

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, one year ago, Chen Shui-bian was re-elected President of Taiwan. The election was the closest in Taiwan's history and marked a reaffirmation that Taiwan is a strong democracy.

The anniversary of President Chen's reelection provides an important opportunity to review events in Taiwan and across the Taiwan Strait in China. As my colleagues know,

China recently enacted a so-called "anti secession" law, which China says gives it the right to use military force against Taiwan if Taiwan decides to declare independence. This law is extremely provocative and potentially destabilizing. Like many of my colleagues, I have condemned this law, and I will continue to do so.

During the past several weeks, the 2 main opposition leaders in Taiwan have traveled to China to meet with the leaders of the Communist Party. These trips have sparked intense debate in Taiwan about the intentions of the Chinese leaders, as well as the future security of Taiwan. This debate is additional evidence of the openness and maturity of the democratic society Taiwan currently enjoys.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan reveres its freedom and its democratic form of government. As Taiwan's friend and ally, I believe it is important for the United States to monitor the situation in the Taiwan Strait very carefully to help ensure Taiwan is not forced into a position which would endanger its freedom or its democracy. President Chen has been a tireless advocate for protecting and enhancing Taiwan's freedom. I hope he will use the remaining three years of his second term in office to make certain Taiwan is protected and that Taiwan will be able to continue to flourish politically and economically.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is a good example of democracy in the Asia Pacific region. I applaud the people of Taiwan for their diligence and their enterprise. The democratic experiment in Taiwan has been an exciting one for the past two decades. It is my hope, and I believe many of my colleagues share the view, that similar adoption of democratic principles will someday spread to mainland China.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF AVON WILLIAMS III

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, Avon Williams was a true friend and dedicated public servant. Over the years it has been a privilege of mine to count Avon and his family as friends. It has been America's good fortune that he chose to serve us all as a respected and capable member of the Pentagon's senior staff.

We grieve for the loss of a man who I know would have continued to do great things for our Nation. And I will miss his wisdom, his wit, and our wonderful conversations.

In Washington, Avon was well known and well respected as counsel for the U.S. Department of the Army. Tennesseans remember him as general counsel for the state Department of Safety and assistant commissioner for the state Department of Economic Development. And during the 1980s Avon represented the Nation as second secretary and vice consul in Manila, Philippines. This experience made him the resident foreign policy expert at our Friday afternoon Roundtable. The man was clearly a talented and gifted human being.

His life story is one of remarkable achievement, many friends, and a loving family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jan and the Williams children as they honor and mourn this wonderful man.